

[Translation]

### Migratory Birds

2192. SHRIMATI GIRJA DEVI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the migratory birds visit several places in India during winter for shelter;

(b) whether the number of migratory birds were lesser in number this year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken in the field of ornithology and natural history to create ecological balance and improve environmental surroundings near lakes to attract more migratory birds as hitherto for?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no report of any decrease in the number of migratory birds of various species arriving in India this year. However, in case of the Siberian crane, 6 birds are reported to have arrived in the Keoladeao National Park, Bharatpur, Rajasthan, for wintering during the current year, compared to 10 last year.

(c) The probable reasons for decline in the number of Siberian Cranes arriving in the Keoladeao National Park for wintering are:

- (i) Unfavourable conditions, including poor breeding of the species, in its breeding grounds in Siberia.
- (ii) Hunting and other threats to the birds during their long voyage to India and back.
- (iii) During droughts in the Keoladeao

National Park area the birds may be using alternate wetlands as entering grounds.

(d) Steps being taken to attract more migratory birds include:

- (i) A number of the endangered species of migratory birds has been included in Schedule-I of the Wild Life (protection) Act, 1972, thus giving them maximum possible legal protection. Under the above Act, there is a total ban on hunting of wildlife.
- (ii) India is a member of the International Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) under which it is obligatory for countries visited by the endangered migratory birds to ensure their protection.
- (iii) A number of wetlands inhabited by migratory birds, as also the surroundings of such wetlands, have been declared as wildlife sanctuaries and national parks by the State Governments. Central assistance is extended for the conservation and development of these protected areas, including measures to augment water supply during drought.
- (iv) A number of important wetlands frequented by the migratory birds have been declared by the Govt. of India as 'wetlands of national importance' for their conservation and development. Some wetlands have also been declared to be of international importance, specially as waterfowl habitats, under Ramsar Convention, of which India is a member.

- (v) Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) of which India is a member, international trade in endangered migratory birds and their products is prohibited

- (vi) Government of India have been sponsoring research related to the ecology of wetlands and conservation of migratory birds. The Salim Ali Centre of Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, has been set up by the Government of India to conduct studies and research related to the above subjects

[English]

#### **Intensive Care Units in Hospitals**

2193 SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Hospitals having the Intensive Care Units are concentrated in metropolitan cities and

(b) if so the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide Intensive Care Units in Hospitals in other cities also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D K THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA) (a) No Sir

(b) Does not arise

#### **Expenditure on Foreign Tours of Indian Sports Teams**

2194 SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS

SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) the amount of foreign exchange spent on Indian Hockey, Cricket and athletics teams foreign tours, during the last three years, year-wise,

(b) the amount spent on current Indian Cricket team's tour to Australia and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange earned from the above tours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) (a) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House

(b) The visit of Indian Cricket team to Australia was cleared at no cost to Government basis and no foreign exchange was released for this visit. According to the Board of Control for Cricket in India the Australian Board will pay to the Indian Board a guarantee money of Australian dollars 3 40,000 for the full tour to Australia

#### **Supply of Medicines through Dispensaries**

2195 SHRIRAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state

(a) whether the CGHS Dispensaries in Delhi are not supplying the medicines to the beneficiaries as prescribed by the specialists and in turn supply some other brand of medicines